

Interested Business Improvement Areas Hosting Additional Community Environment Days

Date:	June 12, 2007
To:	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
From:	Geoff Rathbone, Acting General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	p:/2007/swms/June/014PW.doc

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee with a Staff Report outlining the feasibility of interested Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) hosting their own Community Environment Day.

Should Council decide to allow interested BIAs to host their own Community Environment Day, it is operationally feasible; however certain logistical criteria must first be met. Furthermore, to cover the cost of these additional events, additional funding would be required for the 2008 Solid Waste Management Services Operating Budget or the event would have to be paid for by the interested BIA.

Since the 2007 Community Environment Day season is well underway, BIA-hosted events could not be offered until the 2008 season.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts arising from this report. However, if Council approves BIA Environment Days and chooses not to have the BIAs pay, the Solid Waste Management Services Operating Budget would have to be increase by \$10,000 per event or up to \$600,000 if all 60 BIAs wanted an event. This would result in an increase to the proposed volume based Solid Waste rate.

The Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on May 2, 2007, the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee considered a report (March 8, 2007) from the Acting General Manager of Solid Waste Management Services regarding the feasibility of renaming the City of Toronto “Community Environment Day” Program to the “Bob Hunter Environment Day” Program. At this meeting, the Committee requested staff to report to the June 27, 2007 meeting of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on the feasibility of interested BIAs hosting their own Community Environment Day.

www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pw/decisions/2007-05-02-pw05-dd.pdf

ISSUE BACKGROUND

For the past 17 years, the Community Environment Days Program has provided valuable outreach and waste diversion activities for the City of Toronto. Solid Waste Management Services has seen a significant increase in the quantity of waste diverted at these events over the last number of years. Community Environment Days have now expanded to showcase a wide range of environmental initiatives in Toronto. There are now dozens of things that residents can drop off, pick up or learn about.

Currently, there are 60 BIAs in Toronto that represents more than 25,000 businesses and property owners. This report has been submitted to outline the feasibility of interested BIAs hosting their own Community Environment Day, in addition to the 44 events hosted by local Councillors each year.

COMMENTS

Community Environment Days are organized by Ward and are hosted by their respective Councillor. The number of Community Environment Days held annually is currently limited to one per ward, resulting in approximately 44 events held per year, from April to September.

Logistical Requirements for Additional Community Environment Days

Should Council decide to allow interested BIAs to host their own Community Environment Days, some logistical requirements must be met to ensure public safety. For example, sufficient space is required to host a Community Environment Day. Generally, an ideal space to accommodate all the Community Environment Day vehicles and activities would be 50 metres by 80 metres (approximately 165 ft. by 265 ft.). This would ensure enough space for the following vehicles and activities:

- 1 42' Environment Days trailer (contains waste diversion containers, event signage, pylons, literature, tables, chairs, tents, etc.);
- 1 40' Goodwill trailer (to collect household items such as clothing, dishes, small working appliances, sport equipment, etc);

- 1 40 cubic yard bin for tires collection;
- 1 – 3 40 cubic yard bins for electronics collection;
- 1 – 3 38' x 9' cube vans, 1 24' x 8.5' cube van and a 25' x 25' area for receiving, packing and storage for Household Hazardous Waste collection;
- 1 dump truck to drop off a load of compost;
- Point-of-Sale tent;
- Toronto Water display and information tent;
- Toronto Environmental Volunteers display and information tent;
- Plastics collection area (for the collection of plastic film and polystyrene);
- Information displays for other City departments or local Community Groups.

Since many residents drive to a Community Environment Day to bring heavy items, such as tires and computers, each event location should have enough parking spaces for attending residents. To accommodate this, events should take place in parking lots. For safety reasons, events should not be held on arterial roads.

To be fair to Councillors that host Community Environment Days each year, BIA Environment Days should only be booked after the Community Environment Day schedule is booked and confirmed for each Councillor. This usually occurs in early February of each year. After this time, BIA Environment Days could then be scheduled.

Funding for Additional Community Environment Days

The cost to operate each additional Community Environment Day is estimated to be approximately \$10,000/event. It is important to note that the cost of each event is dependent on the quantity of materials brought to an event by residents. Therefore, some events could cost more or less than \$10,000. This additional cost would be primarily for:

Wages – staff to provide service at the events, load and unload trailers, deliver vehicles and compost, handle household hazardous waste, transfer recyclables and reusables to market.

Supplies and Equipment – signs, bins, fuel, etc.

Services and permits – pay duty officers to control traffic, forklift rentals, event permits, etc.

Promotion

Household Hazardous Waste collection, transport and disposal

Should Council choose to increase the number of Community Environment Days held per year by allowing interested BIAs to host their own events, Solid Waste Management Services could operate the extra events, but would require an additional \$10,000 per event in its 2008 Operating Budget. For example, if 10 BIAs expressed an interest in hosting their own Community Environment Day, Solid Waste Management Services would require an additional \$100,000 in its 2008 Operating Budget to run these events. Alternately, BIAs that wish to host their own Community Environment Day could pay for the event using funds from their own budget.

The Executive Director of the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA), a non-profit umbrella organization representing Toronto's 60 BIAs, has expressed concern over BIAs having to pay for their own Community Environment Day, noting this is not a traditional undertaking of a BIA, and that most BIAs would not have the funding available to host such an event. If Council decides to allow BIAs to host their own Community Environment Days, staff could attend a TABIA Interdepartmental Committee Meeting to gauge interest.

Should a Councillor wish to co-host their Community Environment Day with a local Business Improvement Area, staff could accommodate this at no additional cost to the City or to the BIA.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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